

**Building Systems of Care for Children and Youth with ASD/DD with New Approaches in Screening,  
Financing, and Transition**

Session Type: Workshop

2/11/2013, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

**Dierdre Washington-Jones, MPH**

Senior Public Health Analyst/Program Director

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)

Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs, Integrated Services

Deidre Washington-Jones is the Senior Public Health Analyst/Program Director for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs, Integrated Services Branch. Ms. Washington-Jones is the lead staff person and project officer for a three year, multi-million dollar MCHB Combating Autism Act Initiative (CAAI) national evaluation and a Report to Congress. She is also the program director for the MCHB State Implementation Grants for Improving Services for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Washington-Jones is also the i,§ Chair, MCHB Autism Evaluation Workgroup and the lead staff person for an interagency agreement (IAA) between HRSA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which facilitates the HRSA/MCHB state autism program implementing CDC's Learn the Signs Act Early Campaign.



**Meredith Pyle**

Program Chief

Systems Development

Maryland Title V CYSHCN Program

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Maternal and Child Health Bureau

Meredith J. Pyle is the Systems Development Chief in Maryland's Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs (OGPSHCN). Ms. Pyle's current responsibilities include a variety of strategic planning, supervisory, analytic, administrative, and coordinative tasks in support of statewide public health systems and policy development to support the health and well-being of children and youth with special health care needs. She is a project manager for a two-year grant to develop a statewide plan to improve the system of health care and related services for children with autism and other developmental disabilities. She led the comprehensive needs assessment process for this project.



**Judith Holt, PhD**  
Co-Director  
Associate Professor  
URLEND  
Utah State University

Dr. Holt has been actively engaged with developing, implementing, and evaluating integrated services and supports for children and youth with health care needs and their families for over thirty years in multiple states and nationally. Dr. Holt co-directs the URLEND program that serves the states of Utah, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming and collaborates closely with the CSHCN directors in those states. As part of the autism initiative, she has also directed several projects designed to improve the early identification of young children with autism.

**Nancy Cronin, MA**  
ASD Systems Change Coordinator  
Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

Nancy Cronin, MA is the Coordinator for the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Systems Change Initiative and the State Autism Implementation Grant Manager in Maine, and in that role is facilitating this interagency effort to achieve a cost-effective and efficient comprehensive system of care for persons with ASD. Nancy joined the staff of the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council in the role in January 2008, having previously served for over four years as the Executive Director of the Autism Society of Maine. While at the Autism Society, Nancy's work at the local, state, and national level focused on the development of effective services and supports for persons with ASD of all ages and their families.